

portion of those that have been recorded from the colony: see Salvin's list ('The Ibis,' 1885-1886), in which about 620 species are catalogued. To make a representative collection of them would require years of work, but would well repay anyone who had the time and means for carrying it out.

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XLVIII.—*On a Collection of Birds from Fort Chiquaqua, Mashonaland.* By J. LAWRENCE SOWERBY. *With Notes by R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., &c.*

(Plate XII. fig. 1.)

[AFTER the suppression of the late rebellion in Mashonaland, Mr. Sowerby was in command of a detachment of the B.S.A. Mounted Police at Fort Chiquaqua, and was able for the first time to study the birds of the district. Very little has been written about the ornithology of Mashonaland: the principal essays on the subject are the following:—

SHELLEY, G. E.—*On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. J. S. Jameson in South-eastern Africa, with Notes by Mr. T. AYRES.* *Ibis*, 1882, pp. 236-265, 349-368, pl. vii.

MARSHALL, GUY A. K. *Notes on a small Collection of Birds from Mashonaland.* *Ibis*, 1896, pp. 241-246.

When it is remembered that, owing to the difficulties of transport, the collector could seldom obtain any shot except pellets of large size, and that Mr. Sowerby's collecting had to be done with a Lee-Metford rifle, the excellent condition of his skins is really wonderful. The new Barbet described below was killed with his rifle, as well as the Honey-Guide, and perhaps the tough skins of these species facilitated their preservation; but it is not given to every young ornithologist to shoot a Hoopoe with a bullet, and then to make a good skin of it.

The principal interest in the present collection consists in the discovery of several species in Mashonaland identical with Angolan forms, such as *Melierax mechowi* and *Monticola*

*angolensis*, besides the new Barbet, which also finds its nearest ally in an Angolan species.—R. B. S.]

All the birds in the present collection were obtained in one district, namely at Fort Chiquaqua, which is about 18 miles E.S.E. of Salisbury. I was stationed there from the early part of July to the beginning of November. The country is very broken, and is mostly covered with "mahobohobo" -bush, though in the kopjes other kinds of bush predominate. The country is well watered, and there are many deserted native gardens.

Along the road from Salisbury to Bulawayo the country varies from thick bush to open undulating veldt. West of the Sebakwe River it is mostly open, with very few kopjes, and the "camel-thorn" and "wait-a-bit" are everywhere. There is also less water than in Mashoualand.

1. *HETEROCORAX CAPENSIS* (Licht.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 12 (1877).

Very common all over the Salisbury district. When courting, about October, it caws very quickly, flying with a fluttering action of the wings. It is not strictly gregarious, and usually not more than two or three are seen together.

2. *ORIOLOUS LARYATUS* Licht.; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 264. Common in bush-veldt.

3. *BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS* (Bechst.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 264; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 245.

Very common. Lives on flies, beetles, &c. The larger beetles it catches in its beak and then transfers them to its foot, after perching, to break them up. A veldt-fire always attracts these birds, and I have seen them almost touching the flames.

4. *ANAPLECTES RUBRICEPS* (Sundev.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 411 (1890).

*Sharpia ayresii* Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 353, pl. vii. fig. 2. I saw only one individual.

5. PYROMELANA XANTHOMELÆNA (Rüpp.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 239 (1890).

*Euplectes xanthomelas* Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 354.

Common. Mostly seen in open country.

6. PRIONOPS TALACOMA Smith; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 263; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 245.

Common in bush-veldt, both in Nyasaland and Matabeleland. Keeps in small parties of a dozen or so, which fly low and steadily, just out of one's way.

7. DRYOSCOPIUS CUBLA.

*Laniarius cubla* (Shaw); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 262.

Common. Mostly in low thick tangles in the kopjes.

8. MALACONOTUS BLANCHOTI.

*Laniarius poliocephalus* (Licht.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 261.

Uncommon. I only saw a pair. They were turning over fallen leaves in a dry spruit, like Blackbirds.

9. TELEPHONUS SENEGALUS (L.); Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 245.

*Telephonus erythropterus* (Shaw); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 262.

Common, but rather shy. I found it both in veldt and kopjes.

10. CINNYRIS KIRKI Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 256.

Uncommon. I only saw about three or four in the district.

11. CINNYRIS GUTTURALIS (L.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 256; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 243.

Very common in bush-veldt and kopjes, but I never saw them before August 8th. They are very pugnacious.

12. CINNYRIS CHALYBEUS (L.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 256; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 243.

Very common in bushy kopjes.

13. PRINIA MYSTACEA (Rüpp.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 193 (1883).

Common in sheltered patches of bush in kopjes. Keeps in small flocks. Very quiet and unobtrusive.

14. *MONTICOLA ANGOLENSIS* Souza; Shelley, B. Afr. i. p. 89 (1896).

Uncommon in the district. I only saw two. Sits on a dead tree-top or other high perch and flutters slowly but steadily up at the locusts as they fly over, and then takes its capture to the ground to break it up before returning to its perch.

15. *PRATINCOLA TORQUATA* (L.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 252.

Fairly common. Habits much like those of our English Stonechat.

16. *THAMNOLEA SUBRUFIPENNIS* Reichen.; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 242.

Fairly common in kopjes. Spends a good deal of the day in cracks of the rocks and caves.

[I suspect that the specimen recorded by Captain Shelley from the Shongo River as *T. cinnamomeiventris* (Ibis, 1882, p. 251) was really of the present species.—R. B. S.]

17. *PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI* Gurney; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 250; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 242.

The commonest bird in the Salisbury district. Frequents kopjes mostly, spending a good part of the heat of the day in cracks and caves. Very cheerful in its ways.

18. *COSMETORNIS VEXILLARIUS* (Gould); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 240.

Not common. I never saw this bird perch on trees when flushed, and after settling on the ground it always shuffles about for a few seconds, possibly to get the conspicuous wing-feathers arranged.

19. *CAPRIMULGUS RUFIGENA* Smith; Hartert, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 532 (1892).

Common in bush-veldt. When disturbed from the ground it often settles lengthwise on branches, like the common English species.

20. *MEROPS APIASTER* L.; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 241.

Very common in the Salisbury district in the hot season,

absent in the dry. Spends most of its time on the wing, constantly uttering a note like that of a House-Martin, but louder and more musical.

21. *DICROCERCUS HIRUNDINEUS* Licht.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 43, pl. i. fig. 1 (1892).

Two specimens were all that I saw.

22. *MELITTOPHAGUS MERIDIONALIS* Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 45, pl. i. fig. 4 (1892).

*Melittophagus pusillus* (Müll.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 243. Common. Mostly hangs about the foot of the kopjes.

23. *EURYSTOMUS AFER* (Lath.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 243. Uncommon. I only saw two, both in bush-veldt.

24. *HALCYON CHELICUTENSIS* (Stanl.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 244.

Common. Usually in bush, sometimes far from water. Solitary in habits.

25. *UPUPA AFRICANA* Bechst.; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 245.

Very common in bush-veldt. The note is loud and flute-like, consisting of two or three syllables like *hoop, hoop, hoop*, the head being bobbed forward at each syllable.

26. *IRRISOR VIRIDIS* (Licht.); Salvin, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 17 (1892).

*Irrisor erythrorhynchus* Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 245.

Seems to be more common than it is, on account of its noisiness. Usually in parties of three or four in the bush-veldt. One begins the concert, and then all join in. The note is something of the same tone as a Magpie's, but runs up and down the scale in a most peculiar and rattle-like manner.

27. *RHINOPOMASTUS CYANOMELAS* (V.); Salvin, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 24 (1892).

Only one specimen seen in the district.

28. *SCHIZORHIS CONCOLOR* (Swains.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 245.

Scarce in this district, but very common between Salisbury and Bulawayo. Known as the "Go-'way-bird," from its note. Usually seven or eight are together.

29. *GALLIREX PORPHYREOLOPHUS* (Vig.); Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 446.

Common in the kopjes, and occasionally seen in the bush where a certain tree grows, bearing the same fruit which the Green Fruit-Pigeons affect.

Sits a great deal in thick trees in the day, every now and then uttering a series of grunting croaks, each note sounding more laboured than the last. It also has some loud flute-like notes, and has a habit of assembling in threes and fours and hopping about and going through some curious antics, keeping close together in the middle of the tree.

30. *INDICATOR MAJOR* Steph.; Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 6 (1891).

Common. Mostly found in bush-veldt, but always singly. It hardly ever fails to take one near a bees'-nest; but never, so far as I saw, actually sits down beside the nest. It keeps up a most energetic, fitful chattering all the while, very like that of a squirrel at home.

31. *DENDROPICUS CARDINALIS* (Gm.); Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 242.

Fairly common in bush-veldt in the Salisbury district.

32. *POGONORHYNCHUS TORQUATUS* (Dum.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 248; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 242.

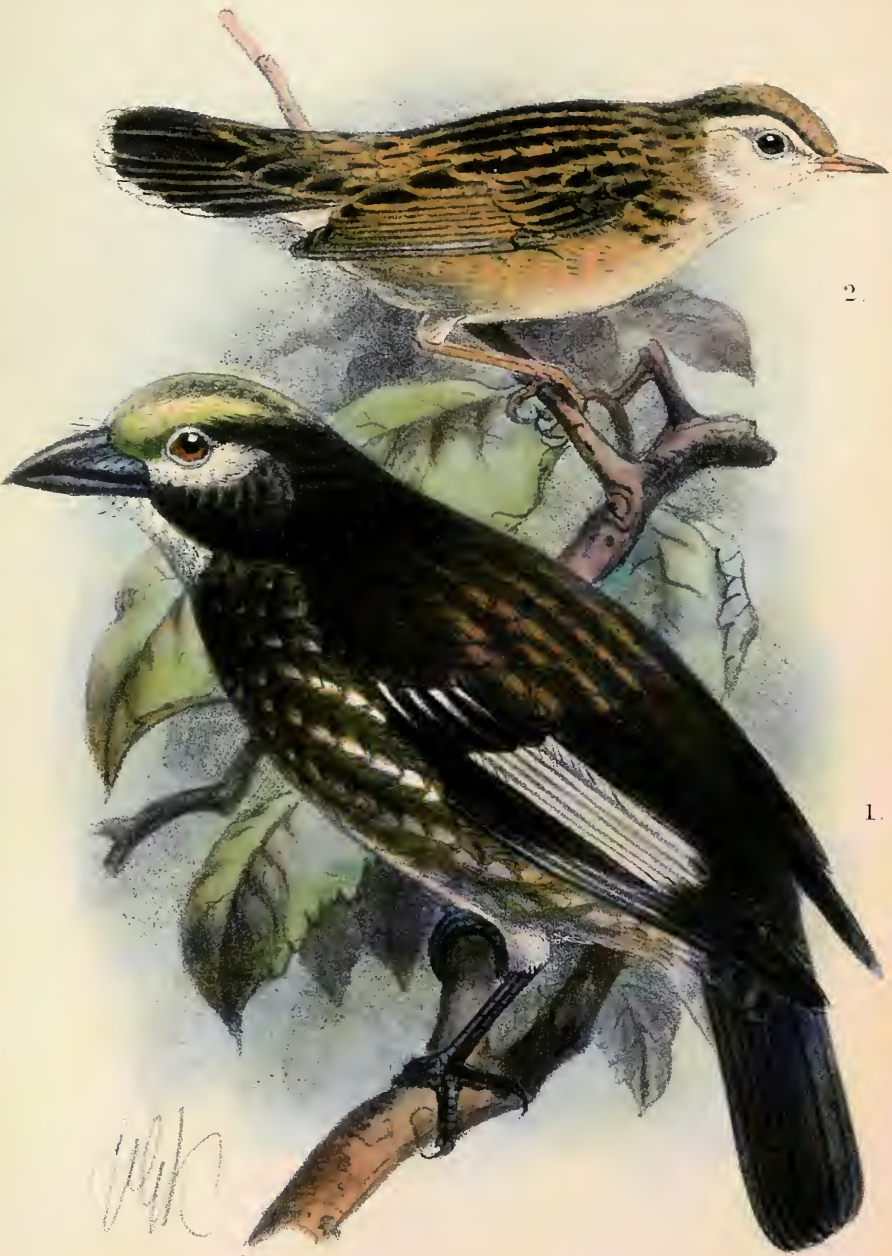
Very common. Note very loud. Frequents bush and kopjes alike.

33. *SMILORHIS SOWERBYI*. (Plate XII. fig. 1.)

*Stactolæma sowerbyi* Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vii. p. xxxvi.

I saw quite half a dozen of this bird at different times, both in kopjes and in the bush-veldt, and was surprised to find that it was a new species.

[This species is, to a certain extent, intermediate between *Stactolæma auchietæ* and *Smilorhis whytii* Shelley. It seems to me that the genera *Stactolæma* and *Smilorhis* cannot be separated on the characters given by Capt. Shelley (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 14), as the nostrils do not appear to be



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1. SMILORHIS SOWERBYI .

2. CISTICOLA HINDII .

really different, and the bare space round the eye varies in extent. As *Smilorhis* is an older name than *Stactolæma*, the present species may preferably be called *Smilorhis sowerbyi*. It is closely allied to *Smilorhis whytii*, and has the white chin and the white-tipped feathers of the breast and abdomen very distinct. It differs, however, from *S. whytii* in the sulphur-yellow colour of the head, which is like that of *S. anchiætæ*. *S. sowerbyi* has no yellow on the face and throat like *S. anchiætæ*.—R. B. S.]

34. SERPENTARIUS SECRETARIUS (Scop.); Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 237.

This, the only one I saw in Mashonaland, was on some open burnt ground, stalking about at the edge of the bush; its crop contained 13 lizards (of the small flat-headed grey kind) and a big handful of locust debris. I saw five Secretary-birds between Enkeldoorn and Bulawayo along the road. When rising they run about five yards, sometimes from 15 to 20 yards, with raised wings. They flap and sail alternately. When sailing, the ends of the primaries are more upturned than in any other bird I have seen. Secretary-birds are excellent eating!

35. MELIERAX MECHOWI Cab.; Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 86.

Not very common. This species has a sort of song, which reminded me of the note of a Dabchick at home, but it is shorter and is not uttered so quickly.

36. MELIERAX GABAR (Daud.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 89 (1874).

Common. The flight and manners of this Hawk are just like those of a male Sparrow-Hawk at home.

37. AQUILA WAHLBERGI Sundev.; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 238.

[This is a very curiously-coloured individual, and is evidently, in my opinion, an immature bird, but it differs from all our specimens in the British Museum in being white underneath, with a few arrow-shaped streaks and bars; the



upper surface is also mottled with white, all the feathers having very broad white tips ; the sides of the face and neck are pure white, and the crown is white streaked with dark brown, with a very evident nuchal crest of pointed brown feathers.—R. B. S.]

38. *CIRCAËTUS CINEREUS* V. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 282 (1874).

I only saw three or four of these, all at Chiquaqua. Iris bright orange-yellow. I ate the breast of this Eagle and found it not absolutely bad after many months of "bully-beef."

39. *HELOTARSUS ECAUDATUS* (Daud.) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 238.

I saw the Bateleur at Fort Mandora, 60 or 70 miles S.W. of Salisbury. It was fairly common at Chiquaqua at times. I saw very few in Matabeleland, possibly on account of the country being mostly flat, with few kopjes. It has a loud single scream, something like that of a Great Black-backed Gull, and drops its legs to the full extent at each repetition. It has also a habit of swinging from side to side with first one wing up and then the other, keeping the wings rigid and rather turned up over the back. I have seen them feed on locusts and Guinea-fowl, and I shot a young bird feeding on a dead mule.

40. *ASTURINULA MONOGRAMMICA* (T.) ; Guy Marshall, Ibis, 1896, p. 241.

Fairly common in bush-veldt.

41. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS* (Gm.) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 238.

Migratory. Entirely absent from Mashonaland from about March to October, so far as I saw. Feeds principally on locusts and such-like insects, which it catches and eats on the wing. The first I saw after their return appeared with the first swarm of locusts. They were very common in November, 1896, in the harbours of the S.E. coast, picking up garbage from the surface of the water.

42. *FALCO BIARMICUS* Temm. ; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 239.

I saw only two or three of these Falcons.

43. *CERCHNEIS RUPICOLA* (Daud.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 429.

*Tinnunculus rupicola* Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 239.

Very common all over the Salisbury district, living about the kopjes. It feeds much on locusts during the wet season.

[Mr. Sowerby assures me that he is quite certain that this specimen, which is in the full plumage of a male bird, was really a *female*. He made certain of the fact, as he was surprised to find such a difference in the colour of a female bird from that of our Common Kestrel of England, and he therefore took particular note of the sexual organs. From this it would appear that the adult female of *C. rupicola* assumes the plumage of the adult male bird.—R. B. S.]

44. *BUBO MACULOSUS* (V.) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 239.

Fairly common, for an Owl. I always found them in the bush, not in the kopjes.

45. *SYRNIUM WOODFORDI* (Smith) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. ii. p. 267 (1875).

I saw only one ; it was in a thick evergreen in a kopje, and was being mobbed by small birds.

46. *STRIX FLAMMEA* L. ; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 240.

Sits in caves in the kopjes. I saw three at Chiquaqua.

47. *LOBIVANELLUS LATERALIS* (Smith) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 144 (1894) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 363.

Found in almost any flat near water or swampy ground, but only in the wet season. Flies round one after the manner of the Peewit, uttering a succession of loud notes. Mashona name, "Querri-Querri."

48. *VINAGO DELALANDII* (Bp.) ; Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxi. p. 24 (1893).

*Treron delalandii*, Shelley, Ibis, 1882, p. 358.

This Pigeon appeared suddenly in rather large flocks to feed on the fruit of certain trees. It has a note quite unlike an ordinary Pigeon's, being more of a whistle than a "coo."